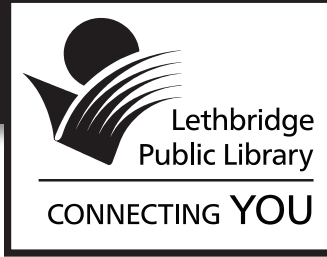


PRESS RELEASE



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Lethbridge Public Library is now Fine Free!

Lethbridge Public Library is excited to announce that starting today, Monday, February 1, we will no longer be charging late fees for overdue items. Furthermore, if you had existing overdue fees with Lethbridge Public Library when you went to bed last night, they have been forgiven.

“Our move to fine free is about focusing on recovering Library materials versus charging monetary fines,” explains Lethbridge Public Library CEO, Terra Plato. “We understand that fines provide a significant barrier to many, and eliminating them ensures that all residents are able to access the Library’s physical and virtual spaces equally. And now, more than ever, as we work to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, our community needs access to its Library.”

“Lethbridge Public Library is committed to meeting community needs through responsive Library services, and is the first goal in our current Plan of Service,” adds City of Lethbridge Library Board Chair, Craig Brown. “This change also reinforces the Board’s commitment to the Canadian Urban Libraries Council’s statement on Race & Social Equity.”

How will it work?

- Initial loan periods and renewal options will remain the same.
- After the item’s due date, a 28-day grace period will be applied.
- Items not returned by the end of the grace period will be identified as lost, and replacement fees will be applied.
- The item(s) will need to be returned, or replacement fees paid, prior to borrowing additional materials.

Please note: this change applies to Lethbridge Public Library cardholders only.

By focusing on recovering materials, Lethbridge Public Library ensures the investment in our collections is protected and available to all. The decision to remove a significant barrier to library use was an historic one made by the Library Board and is in keeping with a growing movement in public libraries across North America. More than 300 public libraries across North America have either eliminated or reduced fines, including: Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Sylvan Lake, and Strathcona County. We are excited to be joining them with an initiative that helps us meet our mission of being a welcoming, inclusive space that connects and strengthens community through equitable access to learning and leisure.

Please see the attached information sheet for more details.